

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is a replacement sheet of drawing for Figs. 1-2, in which Fig. 1 has been corrected to add reference characters 1-1, 2-3, 2-4 and 2-5 to identify parts that are described in the amended specification.

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to a lack of antecedent basis for certain terms. Claim 1 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,491,928 to Potochnik.

In accordance with this response, claim 1 has been amended and new claims 2-10 have been added. The specification has been revised to conform to U.S. practice and to provide an antecedent basis for the claim terminology. A replacement sheet of Figs. 1-2 has been submitted, in which Fig. 1 has been corrected to add additional reference characters that are described in the amended specification.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of his application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion.

The present invention relates to a flowerpot having an automatic water feed function. By way of example, and with reference to the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 3-4 and embodied in the claims, the flowerpot comprises an outer pot 1 in which is disposed an inner pot 2 that has a water intake hole 2-2 at a lower portion thereof. As shown in Fig. 1, the inner pot 2 is disposed in the outer pot 1 with a gap between an inner peripheral surface of the outer pot 1 and an outer

peripheral surface of the inner pot 2, the gap defining a water storage space. The inner pot 2 has at an upper portion thereof a screw portion 2-5 that is screwed onto a complementary screw portion 1-1 at an upper portion of the outer pot 1 to seal the water storage space 3, excepting the water intake hole 2-2, from the outside air.

The screw connection between the outer and inner pots 1 and 2 effectively seals the water storage space 3 so that outside air does not enter into the space, and such a well-sealed structure is necessary to achieve an automatic water feed function through the water intake hole 2-2.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a flowerpot having an automatic water feed function, the flowerpot comprising an outer pot, an inner pot having a water intake hole at a lower portion thereof, wherein the inner pot is disposed in the outer pot with a gap between an inner peripheral surface of the outer pot and an outer peripheral surface of the inner pot, and the inner pot has at an upper portion thereof a screw portion that is screwed onto a screw portion at an upper portion of the outer pot so that the gap constitutes a sealed space for water storage that is isolated from the outside air, excepting the water intake hole.

New independent claim 6 is directed to a flowerpot having an automatic water feed function, the flowerpot comprising an outer pot that has inner and outer peripheral side surfaces, and an inner pot that has inner and outer peripheral side surfaces and that is disposed in the outer pot to define a water storage space between the inner peripheral side surface of the outer pot and the outer peripheral side surface of the inner pot, the inner pot having a water intake hole at a lower portion thereof for feeding water stored in the water storage space into the inner pot, and the inner pot having at an upper portion thereof a screw portion that is screwed onto a complementary screw portion at an upper portion of the outer pot to seal the water storage space, excepting the water intake hole, from the outside air.

The flowerpot recited in independent claims 1 and 6 is not disclosed or suggested by Potochnik nor in any of the other prior art references of record. Potochnik discloses a dual container for house plants, comprising an outer container 12 and an inner container 14 disposed in the outer container 12. The outer container 12 is provided with a plurality of lips 16, and the inner container 14 is provided with a plurality of lugs 18 that engage with the lips to connect the two containers together. The space between the two containers 12,14 defines a water storage space from which water is fed through a water intake hole 34 into the inner container 14.

Unlike the present invention, the flowerpot of Potochnik does not provide a sealed, airtight water storage space but to the contrary, the Potochnik flowerpot is designed to permit evaporation of excess water in the water storage space 35 through the loose fit between the containers 12,14 at the upper edges of the containers (column 3, lines 44-50). The lip-and-lug connection disclosed by Potochnik is disadvantageous in terms of air-tightness as compared with the screw connection of the present invention, which provides satisfactory air-tightness as well as water-tightness, thereby improving the automatic water feed function.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10 each recite further features of the inventive flowerpot, none of which is disclosed by Potochnik.

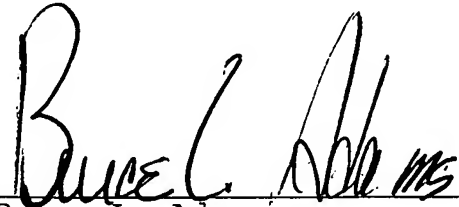
The other prior art of record has been considered; however, it is not seen where any of the prior art of record discloses a flowerpot having inner and outer pots that are screwed together to form a sealed space for water storage, as required by the claims.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage
of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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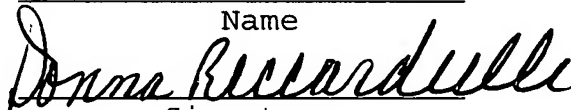
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OCTOBER 10, 2008

Date